

## CLAIM AMENDMENTS

### IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application or previous response to office action:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Currently Amended) A method for operating a casting and rolling plant comprising the steps of:
  - providing at least one thin-slab production line[[,]] consisting of first and second thin-slab casting machines and first and second corresponding tunnel furnaces,
  - providing at least one rolling mill train[[,]] for said line adapted to receive thin-slabs from the line and thick-slabs,
  - providing at least one slab feed device, ~~which in manufacturing terms is~~ independent of the thin-slab production line, said device adapted to supply slabs not produced by said thin-slab line [[and]]
  - ~~during a pause in production of the slab production line when the slab production line is non-operational, supplying slabs to the rolling mill train via the slab feed device~~ in accordance with logistical and/or production engineering stipulations.
7. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in Claim 6, wherein the slab feed device ~~of the casting and rolling plant~~ receives its slabs from a further slab production

line which, together with the slab feed device, is responsible for supplying slabs to the rolling mill train ~~in accordance with logistical and/or production engineering stipulations.~~

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the further slab production line is designed as a thick-slab production line which, together with the thin-slab production line, is responsible for supplying slabs to the rolling mill train ~~in accordance with logistical and/or production engineering stipulations.~~

10. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in Claim 6, wherein the slab feed device ~~of the casting and rolling plant~~ receives its slabs from a slab store in which prefabricated slabs are temporarily stored ~~for manufacturing purposes.~~

11. (Currently Amended) A casting and rolling plant comprising:

- ~~a at least one~~ slab production line consisting of first and second casting machines and first and second corresponding tunnel furnaces,

- ~~a at least one~~ rolling mill train for said line for receipt of slabs produced by the line and slabs not produced by the line,

- ~~a at least one~~ slab feed device, ~~which in manufacturing terms is~~ independent of the slab production line, said device adapted to supply slabs not produced by said line to said [[the]] rolling mill train ~~during a pause in production of the slab production line when the slab production line is non-operational~~ in accordance with logistical and/or production engineering stipulations.

12. (Currently Amended) The plant as claimed in Claim 11, further comprising a further slab production line, wherein the slab feed device of the casting and rolling plant receives its slabs from the further slab production line ~~which, together with the slab feed device, is responsible for supplying slabs to the rolling mill train to the maximum feasible extent in accordance with logistical and/or production engineering stipulations.~~

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) The plant as claimed in Claim 12, wherein the further slab production line is designed as a thick-slab production line ~~which, together with the slab production line, is responsible for supplying slabs to the rolling mill train in accordance with logistical and/or production engineering stipulations.~~

15. (Currently Amended) The plant as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the slab feed device ~~of the casting and rolling plant~~ receives its slabs from a slab store in which prefabricated slabs are temporarily stored ~~for manufacturing purposes.~~

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)